

News Release

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August 7, 2019

Bute Island open for public access as newest regional parkland in CVRD

Duncan, BC – A 2.2-acre island in Ladysmith Harbour will be maintained in its natural state as the latest regional parkland acquisition by the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

Bute Island, long held under private ownership, can now be visited by residents and visitors to the Cowichan region. With a day-use accessible dock that can accommodate kayaks, canoes, and smaller vessels, people will be able to explore the island's unique flora and fauna and enjoy beautiful panoramic views of Ladysmith and other islands dotting the harbour. The interior of the island provides a rustic, low impact natural trail walk with access to small pocket bays along the foreshore that can be explored during low tide.

“Adding Bute Island to our roster of regional parkland ensures the stewardship of a small piece of land that holds tremendous ecological and aesthetic value, and has significant cultural importance to local First Nations community members,” said Ian Morrison, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “This is an exciting opportunity for CVRD to expand its regional parks for the benefit of residents, and further strengthen the tourism sector of the southern Gulf Islands and Ladysmith area.”

To celebrate this newest acquisition towards establishment of Ladysmith Harbour Islands Regional Park, the CVRD will be offering boat tours to Bute Island during the Ladysmith Maritime Society's Sea Life Celebration event on Sunday, August 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ladysmith Community Marina. The event provides a wealth of fun activities for kids and families to see, touch and learn about the sea creatures that reside in our coastal waters.

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